

Introduction

Eric Wilson novels excite the imagination of young readers in grades 4-6. Appealing to children's inherent keen interest in mystery, Eric Wilson has skilfully woven accurate Canadian geographic and historic information into his writing. He also touches on current Canadian social and political issues in many of his novels. As such, these novels lend themselves to the integrated study of the mystery genre with Canadian geography topics in social studies and investigation units in science.

The Ice Diamond Quest provides rich material for the study of setting, characterization and plot development. It can be used independently or as an introduction to the other novels in the series, thereby providing a national setting within which the regional stories come together to make a whole. The varying levels of difficulty in the novels provide opportunity to accommodate individual student ability, experience and interests.

Students can supplement the package with meaningful research which will strengthen the impact of their work. They will take great delight in finding information on the Internet that directly links to the places or events in the novels. Every province, territory, and most cities have up-to-date information available on an Internet website.

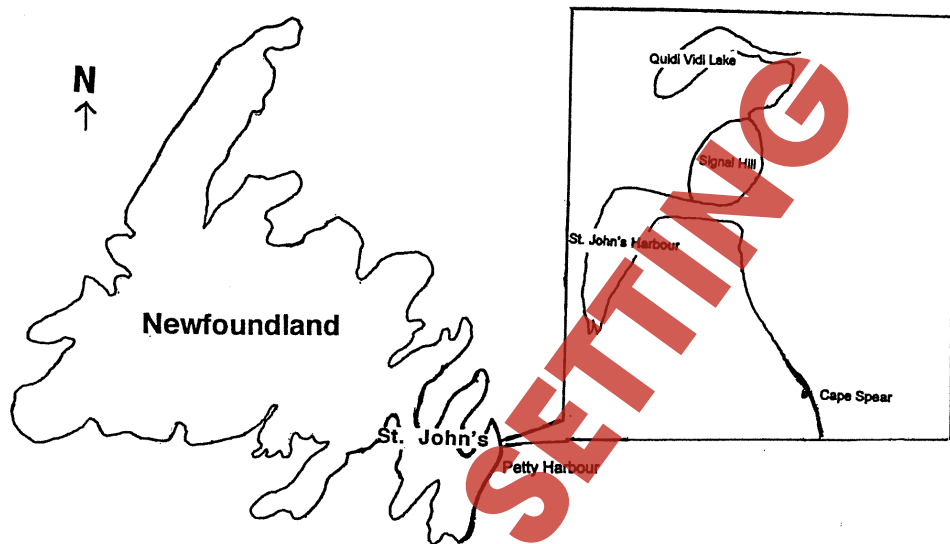
Newfoundland has a very rich history to investigate. A topic of interest to students would be the different foods, unique to Newfoundland, some of which are mentioned in the novel. In the novel, the seal hunt is discussed from the sealers' point of view. This issue has raised much controversy in Canada and around the world. It could be further explored, looking at all points of view.

An excellent audio-visual resource to accompany The Ice Diamond Quest is the video, **"Eric Wilson's Canada: A Mystery Writer's Newfoundland"**, available from Magic Lantern Communications, Oakville, Ontario (1-800-263-1717). Eric Wilson explains how he created the novel from this geographic and historic setting. A scene from the novel is also enacted by two young actors.

Through the internet, students can be introduced to the author, Eric Wilson. His website address is www.ericwilson.com.

The Ice Diamond Quest
Eric Wilson

Setting



Referring to the above map, fill in the blanks as you read the story.

1. Marconi received the first audio signal from across the Atlantic at _____.
2. Richard Livingstone lived in _____, North America's oldest city.
3. The most easterly point of North America is _____.
4. Richard Livingstone keeps the Quest tied up in _____.
5. Duncan first received the signal about the Ice Diamond at _____.

Man on Airplane

Woman in Airport

Dave Foster

Kathy Munro

Characters from
The Ice Diamond Quest

Men in Camouflage

Richard Livingstone

The Hawk

Ginger Watson

Character Summary of Tom Austen

APPEARANCE

ACTIONS, FEELINGS, THOUGHTS AND WORDS

CHARACTER TRAITS

Chapter Questions

Answer in full sentences.



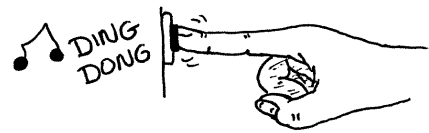
Chapter 1

1. Why did Tom, Liz and their mother travel to Newfoundland?

2. a) On the plane, a man overheard Tom and Liz's conversation. In the terminal, he and his female companion demanded more information from Tom. What did they want to know?

- b) How did the woman react to Tom's silence?

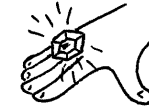
Chapter 2



1. Using descriptions from the story, draw and colour a picture of a typical street in the harbour area of St. John's, North America's oldest city.

2. Tom and Liz answered the doorbell at the Prescott Inn. Who was at the door and what did they want?

Chapter 4



1. Tom and Liz tried to research the Ice Diamond at the library and by asking a jeweller, but they were unsuccessful. What do you think the Ice Diamond is? Give reasons for your answer.

2. Who were the "Pirates of Water Street" ?

3. a) Richard and the Hawk had a conversation in the Citroen. What was Richard's response to Hawk's concerns?

b) When the Citroen was driven away, Richard stated that the Hawk was in for a surprise. What do you think the surprise might be? Give reasons for your answer.

Final Projects

1. Characterization

Use the items you have recorded on your character summary to write a one paragraph character sketch of Tom or Liz Austen. Your paragraph should include the following:

- a) a brief description of the character's appearance
- b) five (5) character traits, supported with information from the story
- c) a topic and concluding sentence.

2. Letter

Imagine you are the Prince. Write a letter to a relative or friend back in your homeland. Tell about your experiences while in hiding, your feelings about your newly gained freedom, and your future plans for your country. Use the friendly letter format.

3. Map Activity

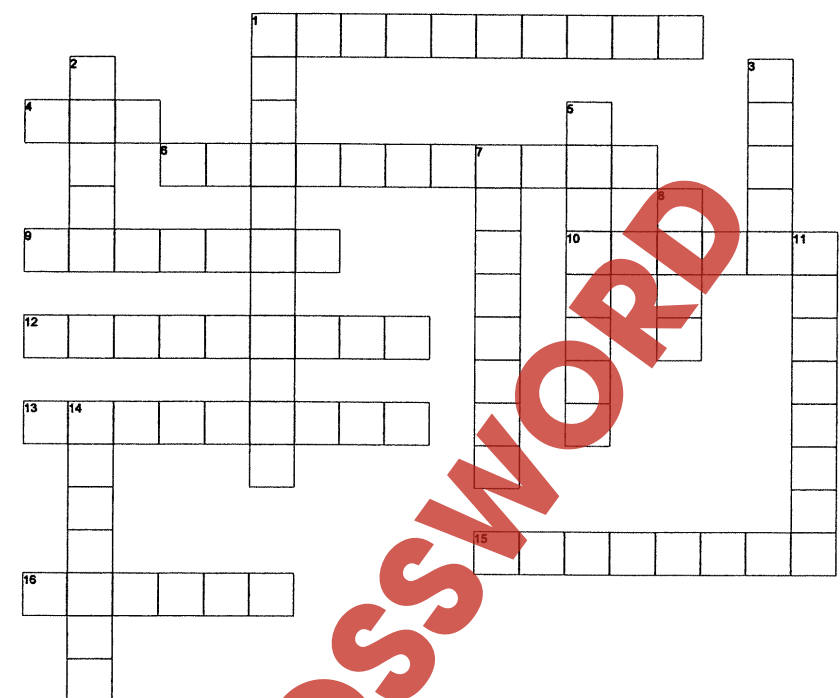
On your classroom map of Canada, mark and label the main setting of this novel.

4. Illustration

On the front cover, illustrate your favourite scene from the story.

5. Vocabulary

Complete the following crossword.



ACROSS

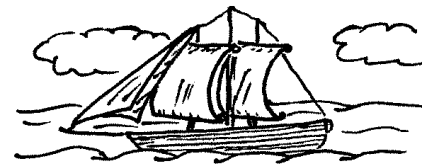
- 1. Structure at the harbour entrance to protect boats from heavy seas (p.69)
- 4. Baby seal (p.35)
- 6. Official welcome to Newfoundland (2 words)(p.73)
- 9. North America's oldest city (2 words)(p.9)
- 10. Seal hunter (p.54)
- 12. Most eastern point in North America (2 words)(p.25)
- 13. Dressing up and going house to house (p.79)
- 15. "Help" in Japanese (p.15)
- 16. Sturdy rubber boat with motor (p.5)

DOWN

- 1. Peter Pan statue location (2 words)(p.36)
- 2. Richard Livingstone's schooner (p.35)
- 3. Wooded shed for storing nets and other fishing gear (p.76)
- 5. Rainsuits worn at seas (p.37)
- 7. Man-servant/agent on a secret mission (p. 126)
- 8. 3 days of visiting and sharing before a funeral (p. 75)
- 11. A model of a Jeep (p. 13)
- 14. The mainland (2 words)(p.9-10)

NOTE: Page numbers are from the 1996 edition of this novel.

Chapter 3



1. Why did Tom and Liz meet with Kathy Munro?

2. Why was Kathy worried about her future?

3. Who was the Prince?

4. a) At the barbershop, how did the Hawk react when the Ice Diamond was mentioned?

b) What message did the Hawk give Tom at Cape Spear?

Chapter 3

Why did Tom and Liz meet with Kathy Munro?

Kathy Munro, the Port Manager, needed the details of the previous evening's incident for her report.

Why was Kathy worried about her future?

Kathy was engaged to Richard Livingstone but she worried about his business sense. Richard ran a small family business, Livingstone Sea Profits, and had large bank loans. Richard insisted that he completely refurbish his family mansion and buy a new car prior to the wedding. These very costly ventures caused Kathy to worry that the wedding would never occur.

Who was the Prince?

The Prince was a young, male heir to the throne of a foreign country. Fifteen years earlier, revolutionaries had overthrown his government and the Prince had been smuggled out of his country for his own safety. It is assumed that on his 18th birthday he will come out of hiding and claim back his country.

At the barbershop, how did the Hawk react when the Ice Diamond was mentioned?

When the Ice Diamond was mentioned, the Hawk bolted upright, knocked off the towels and stared at Tom with his fierce, black eyes.

b) What message did the Hawk give Tom at Cape Spear?

The Hawk told Tom to leave the island immediately.

Chapter 4

Tom and Liz tried to research the Ice Diamond at the library and by asking a jeweller, but they were unsuccessful. What do you think the Ice Diamond is? Give reasons for your answer.

Accept any plausible answers with support.

ANSWER KEY